

Attending:

Lindsay Audin

Carl Grimm

Brian Pugh

Joel Gingold

Matt Rubenstein

Niall Kelleher

Absent:

Leo Wiegman

Greg Schmidt

Look for underlined commitments to be fulfilled before our next meeting.

Old/ongoing business:

- The Committee accepted Joel's letter to CAC on ways to improve future Earth Day events. Lindsay will forward the letter to Niall for signature and send it to CAC Chair Carey Andrews.

- Info meetings on next round(s) of Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) – Brian reported that Catherine Borgia issued invitations to local govt. people from towns that did not participate in the first round. The meeting is co-sponsored by Clearwater, Local Progress, and NY League of Women Voters, and (perhaps) by the Sierra Club. Two events (covering the same issues) will be held June 22 and 29 at 7 PM at the White Plains Library. Sust. Westchester (SW) will speak. If sufficient interest is shown, a 1-year electric contract would be proposed, to run out about the same time as the present 2-year contract which many Westchester towns signed. In July or August, Glenn Weinberg of SW will address the Village Board on that option.

- EnergizeNY events – To re-introduce the program to the residential energy efficiency program, a NYSERDA Energy Coach will present on June 23 at 7 PM at the Croton Library. Another presentation will be made in September (date to be determined). Brian asks that Committee members spread the word on this event.

- Muni Bldg gas conversion project – Lindsay reported that the Village Board had OKed funding of the development of bid documents to nail down technical details and pricing for the boiler upgrade. Bids should be received over the summer, with installation to be completed in the following spring, though some construction (e.g., indoor piping, trenching) may start before the winter sets in.

- Gas service survey – Lindsay indicated that roughly 400 responses have been received to the survey, with most (~56%) online and the rest on paper forms. Janine King secured an intern (Heather Gilligan) who will transfer the paper-based data into the online form starting on June 27, with Lindsay supervising. Matt indicated that he can then format the data into a GoogleMap that will show us the locations of respondents presently having gas service, and the preferences of those not having it. With that information in hand, Lindsay indicated that we may need to distribute more surveys on streets where interest in converting was already indicated in order to determine overall interest. We look forward to reporting on the results of the survey via our quarterly report to the Board (now tentatively scheduled for the July 11 work session).

- Proposal and funding of energy audit of Muni Bldg – As per prior discussions, an opportunity exists for cutting energy use and cost at that site via an energy audit focusing on controls (lighting, A/C,

boiler), but including evaluations of other options (e.g., roof insulation, door sealing). To fund it (rough cost: \$2500), a grant from NYSERDA (based on passing an electric vehicle [EV] parking ordinance) for that amount is available. To overcome Village staff reluctance in handling the always-glacial NYSERDA paperwork, Brian suggested (and Lindsay agreed to) handling that task for her, with Janine merely signing the application.

- Village web, email, Facebook content/policies/actions – Nothing new to report on policies. Matt detailed his work setting up our committee mailing list address, and the Committee's web page (sustain-croton.org, controlled by Village staff) that forwards people to our standard Village web page, both of which make Committee work more efficient and thorough.

- Croton Microgrid – Brian indicated that Stage 2 involves cost sharing of engineering development for the study done by Hitachi. Its Powerpoint presentation showed a project cost of \$3.025 million. Based on his experience, Lindsay indicated that such development typically runs 6-12% of project cost, so the 15% share that Croton would need to provide would be between \$27K and \$54K. Matt said he would speak to Hitachi to nail down the number. The Committee agreed to support such funding in its quarterly report.

- Other items:

 - Brian announced a June 16 meeting on NY State's proposed Clean Energy Standard to support a goal of 50% renewable electricity across the State by 2030.

 - Matt is revising our generic flyer. We look forward to a draft by our next meeting.

New business:

1. submissions for next quarterly report to the Board (bumped from June 13 to July 11) – Niall and Matt will draft short updates on the Community Gardens and technical work by the Committee.

2. review Village/Committee policies on attaining/maintaining Committee membership – see below for full discussion. The group developed procedures for adding and dropping members.

3. proposal for "Green Community" panel discussion – see below for full discussion. Carl created an outline for the event, and the Committee fleshed out some details and how to move forward on it.

4. possible lamp upgrade for Muni Bldg – Lindsay reviewed the lack of responses to communications with Martin Gariepy, foreman and acting commissioner of public works, regarding use of a more energy efficient lamps. Brian recommended and Lindsay agreed to call Gariepy as me may not understand the source/meaning of such emails. If that doesn't work, the option to use 28-watt T8 lamps (instead of the standard 32-watters may instead be reviewed as part of the proposed energy audit.

5. New Castle and County legislation on re-usable vs. plastic shopping bags – While the County Legislature has not acted on this issue, New Castle has joined Hastings and other Westchester towns in banning plastic shopping bags. Carl will secure a copy of its new law so we may (at our next meeting) assess how Croton could replicate it. He will contact their Village attorneys to review issues (e.g., avoiding grocer lawsuits) that must be considered prior to pushing for a local ban.

6. Recruiting new team members – Nothing new on this item.

Next meeting: Sunday July 10 (to avoid July 4 weekend) 10:30 AM at 221 Cleveland Drive.

Discussion on adding/dropping Committee members

To ensure fairness and clarity, the Committee reviewed proposals for rules we would follow. After much discussion, the following was developed as a first draft.

1. Present members were appointed by the Village Board. Nominations for future members may come from the Board or via recommendations from our Committee, with Board approval or rejection.
2. If a member misses 2 consecutive meetings (phone or Skype attendance is acceptable) without having provided an excuse in advance (e.g., travel, family, medical, professional), a letter will be issued asking if continued involvement with the Committee is desired. If a 3rd consecutive meeting is missed, or if 6 of the last 12 meetings have been missed, either without advanced excusal, the Committee will ask (at our next quarterly report to the Board) that the Board terminate that person's membership.
3. Via a memo to Janine, the Committee would recommend formal termination of the following members: Susan Lunden (who dropped off the Committee years ago), Lee Leitner (who resigned last month), and Leo Wiegman (who did not respond to a 5/24/16 query regarding his ongoing interest). In that memo, present membership would be re-stated for clarity. [Subsequently, it was found that both Lunden and Wiegman had already been dropped from the online list of committee membership. Joel Gingold's name will be added to that list].

Discussion of publishing notes from Committee meetings

The following items would be routinely posted on the Committee's Village webpage:

1. Most recent meeting's minutes
2. Next meeting's agenda line items
3. Any Committee proposals to the Village board, once fully vetted and scheduled for presentation.

While all our meetings are open to the public, any group that wishes to be heard on an issue will be invited to send one representative to speak after all other items on our agenda have been addressed. During our meeting, non-members are invited to listen but not participate (beyond asking questions) regarding items on the agenda.

To enhance attendance prior to each meeting, an email will be sent to the Gazette announcing our meeting date, time, location, and the email address to which inquiries may be sent.

Proposal for a "Green Community" event

As per a prior discussion, Carl and Brian had proposed a 60 – 90 minute panel discussion addressing ways Croton may become more sustainable, and to stimulate ways to lower our carbon footprint. Among the issues that might be discussed, Carl had previously listed:

- plastic bag ban
- composting locally instead of trucking garden waste
- improving the bus system, which does not serve commuters well
- capturing rain water at Metro North and other parking areas.
- landscaping railroad parking lot
- improving parking lot lighting efficiency and appearance
- reducing/eliminating leak-prone underground fuel tanks
- cutting energy waste at the Village Garage and Wash. Street Firehouse
- upgrading purchasing specs for Village vehicles (e.g., using hybrids where feasible)
- adding electric vehicle charging stations
- developing hydro-electric power at the Croton dam
- purchase of 100% renewable power for Village electric accounts
- using the village street sweeper only on demand (e.g., after a storm)
- extending sidewalks near schools to enable student walking
- expand development of solar power beyond the firehouses, e.g., community solar

The audience would be composed primarily of local govt. officials, committees, and activists. It would be held in early October to stimulate interest among election candidates, but members agreed that the event should be non-partisan. A format like a TED talk was suggested. Local officials would be encouraged to address the specified issues. A survey would be distributed at the event to assess what issues were of greatest interest, with an open page to allow inclusion of attendee issues.

Brian recommended that the focus be narrowed to a few specific issues. The Committee agreed that members would, for our next meeting, each bring a list of issues that could be addressed in such a forum to see where greatest interest exists. Our quarterly report would mention development of this event.